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St. Mary's Church*

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INFORMATION

FOR

FAMILIES ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE IN AID OF

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

HOCHELAGA

MONTREAL

W. E. DANIEL, PRINTER

Care of St. Gabriel and St. Raphael Bishops

—
1878

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
GENERAL SYNOD ARCHIVES

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INFORMATION

FOR

PARTIES ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE IN AID OF

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

HOCHELAGA



MONTREAL

W. F. DANIEL, PRINTER

Corner of St. Gabriel and St. Thérèse Streets

1872

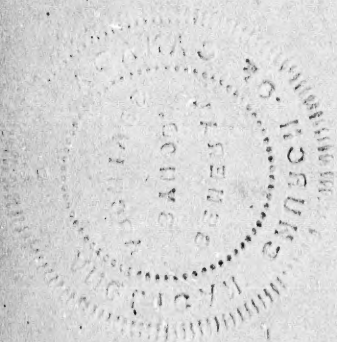
INFORMATION

FOR

PRINTING AGENTS TO CONTRACT IS AID OF

ST MART'S CHURCH

RECOGNITION



MONTREAL

H. E. DANIEL, PRINTER

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1905

INTRODUCTION

Copy of a letter addressed by certain members of the Vestry to the Incumbent.

Hochelaga, 3rd April 1872.

Rev. J. D. Borthwick,
Incumbent of Hochelaga.

Reverend and Dear Sir.

The return of Easter imposes upon us the necessity of devising ways and means for the support of our church during the current year, and this leads us to approach a subject of some delicacy, which we desire to do in a spirit of love and christian charity, remembering that we are all, but unprofitable servants, in the eyes of "Him with whom we have to do."

It cannot be disguised that a steady decline of the Congregation is apparent, both as regards numbers and interest, and that at the present rate the church will soon be emptied, and the vantage-ground now held by the Church of England be occupied by the Wesleyans or some other equally zealous body of christians, who only await the favorable moment, to plant their standard.

The subject demands our most earnest and serious attention, affecting as it does, the highest interests of ourselves and families, and we crave a like solemn and serious consideration on your part, as to the present critical condition of things, and the remedy.

Our candid conviction is, that it will be simply impossible to raise amongst us, a stipend adequate to your wants and abilities, and to obtain outside assistance for this object, would be totally impracticable.

We believe the time has come, to make an effort to render this Parish or cure self supporting, and this cannot be effected unless under the Pastorate of one who possesses the peculiar qualifications necessary to draw around him and hold together the heterogenous elements of which the protestant population of Hochelaga is composed.

To say that you have not succeeded in doing this, is in no wise intended to disparage your capacity and zeal, yet it is undeniably true, that the ministrations of a Pastor are often better appreciated and more blessed, in one sphere of labor than another; and if, Reverend and Dear Sir, you have failed to perceive any signs of spiritual life and

progress during the course of your ministry in this place, may it not be an indication of a call to you to work in some other part of the Lord's Vineyard?

We do not undervalue the pecuniary aspect of the subject by any means, but we do submit, that the Eternal welfare of many immortal souls transcends all other considerations, and we earnestly desire and pray that we all may be Divinely guided as to the course now to be pursued.

We should be glad to have an expression of your views on the subject as early as possible.

We remain,

Reverend and dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

WM. A. CURRY,
JOSEPH HORSFALL, } Churchwardens.

RICHARD HEMSLEY,
G. M. ABBOTT, M. D.
JOSIAS BRYANT,
JOHN BRAMLEY,
GEORGE BROWN,
GEORGE ROBERTS,
HENRY LAMPEN,

Members of Vestry.

Ex-Churchwardens.

The above appeal to the moral sensibilities of the Incumbent, instead of having the desired effect, appears to have roused his combative propensities in an extraordinary degree, evinced by a series of hostile acts directed against his best friends.

Some of these matters were brought to light at the Vestry meeting, minutes of which are contained in the following pages.

MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

HOCHELAGA

Pursuant to the following notice posted on the church door according to law, viz :

"NOTICE.—The Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church, Hochelaga, having been required by six members of the Vestry to call a meeting thereof, pursuant to Act of Provincial Parliament, 14-15 Vic., Cap. CLXXVI, Sec. X, and having failed to do so; the undersigned, acting under the authority of the said Act, hereby summon a meeting of Vestry, to be held in the Vestry-Room of said St. Mary's Church, on Monday, the fourteenth day of October instant, at eight P. M. Dated at Hochelaga, this 5th day of October, A. D. 1872. Signed W. A. Curry, Joseph Horsfall, G. M. Abbott, H. Lampen, Jos. Bryant, Thos. Hawkins, members of the Vestry and subscribers to the Endowment fund of said St. Mary's Church."

A meeting of Vestry assembled therefore on the 14th October, at St. Mary's Church door, where they were met by the Incumbent, who declined either to admit them into the Church, or to furnish them with the minute book; whereupon, Dr. Abbott moved an adjournment to Mr. Curry's residence, which was carried into effect. There were present Messrs. Josias Bryant, G. M. Abbott, M. D., Jos. Horsfall, Wm. A. Curry, Capt. Henry Lampen, Fred. Wheeler, W. Jones.

G. M. Abbott, M. D., in the chair.

Capt. H. Lampen, late H. M. 33rd Regiment, acted as Secretary.

The above named, then signed a declaration that they were members of the Church of England, subscribers to the Parsonage or Endowment fund of St. Mary's Church, and as such, duly qualified members of the Vestry. *Vide* 14-15 Vict., Cap. CLXXVI, Sect. XXIII.

Moved by JOSIAS BRYANT, seconded by W. A. CURRY, and

RESOLVED,—That the minutes of a meeting held on the 9th July last *be not confirmed*, the whole proceedings thereat having been illegal, and they be now declared to be null and void, and be held to be expunged from the records of the Church.

Moved by Capt. LAMPEN, late H. M. 33rd Regiment, seconded by W. JONES, and

RESOLVED,—That the minutes of the Easter Meeting be confirmed.

The report of Mr. Curry, local delegate to the Diocesan Synod, was then read :

Report of the Local Delegate to the Diocesan Synod

"Your delegate reports that he was present at the opening of the Synod on the 18th June last, where he met S. C. Bagg, Esq., his co-delegate, who had been furnished with the required certificate of his election by the Incumbent, altho' none had been sent to the subscriber. The Incumbent was not present that day, and the same evening your local delegate wrote to Mr. Borthwick for his certificate. His verbal reply was: 'I have not time to attend to it now but will see to it in the morning.' Expecting to meet him at the Synod, the subscriber attended in his place the following day, but the Incumbent did not appear, and your delegate had either to withdraw, or appeal to the consideration of the officers of the Synod. He chose the latter course, and on giving explanations, was allowed to take his seat.

"That this indignity was premeditated there can be no question, as the people's churchwarden on being informed

of it, replied, 'Oh! I knew three weeks ago that you were not to get your certificate.'

"The action carries its own condemnation and needs no comment.

"WM. A. CURRY.

"Hochelaga, 14th October 1872."

* Whereupon it was moved by JOSEPH HORSFALL, seconded by FRED. WHEELER, and

RESOLVED,—That the report of the local delegate to the Diocesan Synod now read, be adopted; and that the Vestry learns with astonishment of the neglect and refusal of the Incumbent to furnish Mr. Curry, the local delegate to the Synod, with a certificate of his election, although he had sent one to Stanley C. Bagg, Esq., the non-resident delegate, which evinced a pre-determination to disqualify Mr. Curry from taking his seat in the Synod, thus putting a slight upon the Vestry in the person of its representative, which requires both explanation and apology.

Moved by JOSIAS BRYANT, seconded by F. WHEELER, and

RESOLVED,—That the practice frequently pursued by the Incumbent of purchasing wine at a neighbouring tavern for the sacramental table on the Sunday mornings, prior to the administration of the sacred rite, betrays an absence of proper regard to the sanctity of the Lord's day, and is calculated to deter many from partaking of the Holy Ordinance: and that in future, the providing of wine for the Lord's table be left in the hands of the Churchwardens, as enacted by the rules of the Synod of this Diocese.

Moved by JOSIAS BRYANT, seconded by W. A. CURRY, and

RESOLVED,—That the Vestry resents the attempted invasion of its privileges by the Incum-

bent, in preventing explanation and discussion at the last meeting, previous to taking a vote upon the motion introduced by himself to upset the Parsonage trust, which motion was carried by a majority of disqualified voters, induced to attend for the purpose, through misrepresentations on the part of the Incumbent.

For the information of some present, and in absence of the minute book withheld by the Incumbent, the following report of the late Churchwardens presented by them at the Easter meeting on retiring from office, was then read, viz :

Churchwardens' Report

"The retiring churchwardens of St. Mary's Church, Hochelaga, beg to report to the Vestry, that the Incumbent having represented to them during the course of the summer that the Synod had withdrawn from him its usual annual grant of *two hundred dollars*, taking effect from 1st July last, they volunteered to collect what they could, by a special effort, to meet this unexpected deficiency. The result has been satisfactory and has enabled them to pay over to the Incumbent a sum rather more than equivalent to the amount of his unexpected loss, as appears by the accounts now submitted. At the same time, they combined a further effort to raise the nucleus of a Parsonage fund, in which they were also successful, as reported at the special meeting of Vestry held on the 21st February last.

"The sum subscribed and available towards the purchase of a Parsonage amounts to *two hundred dollars*, and the amount collected for and received by the Incumbent, amounts to *one hundred and fifty four dollars*, leaving a balance on these collections of twenty-three dollars and 33 cents, applicable to the general purposes of the Church.

"The whole respectfully submitted,

"WM. A. CURRY,

"JOSEPH HORSFALL.

"Hochelaga, 1st April 1872."

And immediately afterwards, the :

Report of the Trustees of the Parsonage or Endowment Fund of St. Mary's Church Hochelaga

"The trustees of the Parsonage fund beg to report :

"That *in addition* to the \$200 first collected to form thereof the nucleus of the fund, they have obtained subscribers to the extent of nearly \$400, making nearly \$600 already available, and from the promises made to them since the matter has become known, they have no doubt of being able to swell this amount to *one thousand dollars* during the next six months.

"The house designated in the resolution of February last was not finished until late in the summer, and as no tenant could then be obtained, and they would have become personally responsible for the interest had the purchase been completed, they deferred it until they could see their way clearly, to act free of personal loss.

"The trustees intended to report progress at a Vestry meeting called partly for the purpose, but to the surprise of the acting trustee, Mr. Curry, and Mr. Bryant—who were present—they found assembled a number of disqualified persons, not members of the Vestry, whom the Incumbent, however, insisted on recognizing as such.

"With indecent haste and in defiance of all rule and precedent, the Incumbent drew up and put to the meeting, a motion declaring the Parsonage scheme defunct, and requiring the trustees attempted to be so obliterated, to deliver up the fund or \$200 in their possession, to the Churchwardens. Declining to allow any one to speak to the motion or to offer any explanation so as to render the matter intelligible to the persons present, who were for the most part entirely unacquainted with the subject, he put the motion to the meeting, and in the same breath, declared it adopted. Against which unheard of proceeding, as well as against the constitution and conduct of the meeting generally, the acting-trustee recorded his emphatic protest.

"Subsequently the Incumbent and Churchwardens made a written demand upon the trustees for the \$200, of which no notice was taken. Some time later these individuals cited the acting trustee, Mr. Curry—before the police magistrate on a *criminal charge*, thus hoping to intimidate the trustees into acceding to their illegal and unrighteous demands, by delivering them trust funds, which *they knew*, from the report of the retiring Churchwardens at the Easter meeting, as well as by previous announcement, had been collected for a specific purpose and were therefore unalienable.

"The magistrate however, saw the absurdity and animus of the proceedings, and dismissed the matter with the intimation to the Incumbent that *it should not have been brought before him at all*. Baffled in this enterprise to obtain funds by such unprincipled means, recourse in now being had to calumny of the basest kind, to excite sympathy, where the truth has been misrepresented without stint.

"The trustees of the fund desire to call special attention to the fact, that the monies now remaining in their possession as trustees, are perfectly distinct from any funds that may have come into their possession as Churchwardens, and of which they rendered an account according to law on retiring from office. The trustees have been appointed for a special purpose, and hold themselves answerable to the contributors to the fund with which they have been entrusted, and which they have hitherto, and still decline, to have diverted to any purpose, except that for which it was contemplated.

"The success which has so far, under, they trust, the Divine blessing, attended the efforts of your trustees, despite the machinations of the Incumbent, justify the belief, that St. Mary's Church will have its Parsonage before long, laying the basis for a satisfactory permanent Endowment.

"Dated at Hochelaga, this twelfth day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.

WILLIAM A. CURRY,
JOSEPH HORSFALL.

Moved by FRED. WHEELER, seconded by W. JONES, and

RESOLVED,—That in order to remove all doubts, insinuated or expressed, as to the regularity and legality of the appointment of the trustees of the Parsonage fund, this Vestry hereby confirms and ratifies such appointment; and that the report now presented by them be adopted and be recorded on the minutes *in extenso*; and the Vestry takes this opportunity of expressing its entire confidence in those gentlemen, and deprecates any interference with them or their proceedings, and considers it matter for congratulation that so much success has already attended their exertions, which ensures a favorable issue to the undertaking; and further, that it is inexpedient to limit the trustees in their

choice of a house or site for a Parsonage to the one designated in the resolution of last February, and that such choice be left to their own discretion.

Moved by Capt. LAMPEN, late of H. M. 33rd Regiment, seconded by JOSIAS BRYANT, F.G.S. and

RESOLVED,—That this Vestry learns with pain and surprise that the Incumbent, and the Churchwardens at his instigation, ventured to adopt so misguided and iniquitous a proceeding towards Mr. Curry the acting trustee of the Parsonage fund, as to cite him before the police magistrate on a *criminal charge*, because he declined to obey the behest of an illegally constituted Vestry-meeting, to dispossess himself of trust funds, given him for a special object, and to hand them over for general purposes to be manipulated by the Churchwardens : and that this meeting now records its indignant protest against such disgraceful proceedings, which betray an utter absence of principle on the part of the chief actor, and gross ignorance and recklessness on the part of the others ; they being perfectly aware from the report of the retiring Churchwardens at the Easter meeting, that a *special fund of two hundred dollars* was raised for a Parsonage as the nucleus of an Endowment fund, and therefore sacred to, and unalienable from, its original destination.

Moved by WM. A. CURRY, seconded by JOSEPH HORSEFALL, supported by Captain LAMPEN, and

RESOLVED,—That notwithstanding his failure to obtain funds to which he is not entitled, by the illegitimate means stated in the foregoing resolution, the Incumbent still persists in making incorrect representations, coupled with slanderous insinuations, in order to levy contributions upon an

unwilling people, regardless of the injury he may do to the characters of others, who have sacrificed time and money to assist him and to build up this mission : a course of action fatal to his own usefulness, bringing scandal upon the church and entirely uncalled for, the protestant residents here, being extremely liberal whenever proper claims are presented to them ; all which, conclusively proves, the unpopularity of the Incumbent and his unfitness for his sacred office.

Moved by JOSEPH HORSFALL, seconded by JOSIAS BRYANT, and

RESOLVED,—That seeing the Incumbent has alienated the respect of his congregation and that of the great majority of the protestant residents of Hochelaga, which has caused some families to absent themselves from the Church altogether and others to meet for private worship elsewhere, matters have reached a climax which necessitates a formal appeal to His Lordship the Metropolitan, and that a committee be now named, with power to add to their number, to solicit the Bishop's interference, with a view to the removal of the present Incumbent and appointment of a successor, and that such committee shall consist of G. M. Abbott, M. D., W. A. Curry, Capt. Lampen, and the mover and seconder of this resolution, who shall cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published and circulated.

All the foregoing resolutions were adopted with entire unanimity:

Mr. D. Tyreman was present but did not vote, not being duly qualified.

G. M. ABBOTT, M. D., *Chairman*,
HENRY LAMPEN, *Secretary*.